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Bethesda, MD 20817

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PSC SC  
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February 9, 2021

Jocelyn G. Boyd, Esquire  
Chief Clerk  
South Carolina Public Service Commission  
101 Executive Center Drive  
Suite 100  
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

**RE:** Amended Application of Sandhill Connexions, LLC for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in Certain Census Blocks in Chesterfield County for Purposes of Receiving Federal Rural Digital Opportunity Fund ("RDOF") Support; Request for Waiver of S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-690.1.B and 103-690.C.(b), Docket No. 2021-17-C

Dear Ms. Boyd,

As required by the South Carolina Public Service Commission, enclosed is proof of publication of the Notice of Filing and Hearing and Prefile Testimony Deadlines from *The State* regarding the above-referenced docket. This Notice was published on January 24, 2021 in *The State* newspaper in Columbia, South Carolina. The Affidavit was e-filed today as well.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Carrie L. DeVier

Counsel for Sandhill Connexions, LLC

Enclosures

## AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Account #	Ad Number	Identification
	3004858269	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA CLERKS OFF

Attention: Carrie L. DeVier

HERMAN & WHITEAKER, LLC  
6720-B ROCKLEDGE DRIVE  
SUITE 150  
BETHESDA, MD 20817

State of South Carolina

County of Richland

I, Michelle Long, makes oath that the advertisement, was published in The State, a newspaper published in the City of Columbia, State and County aforesaid, in the issue(s) of

1 Insertion(s)

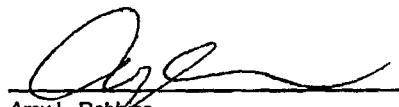
Published On:

January 24, 2021



Michelle Long  
Inside Classified Accounts  
Representative

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 3rd day of February in the year of 2021



Amy L. Robbins  
Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission Expires:  
November 27, 2022

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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
CLERK'S OFFICE  
**NOTICE OF FILING AND HEARING AND  
PREFILE TESTIMONY DEADLINES**  
DOCKET NO. 2021-17-C

Application of Sandhill Connections, LLC for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in Certain Census Blocks in Chesterfield County for Purposes of Receiving Federal Rural Digital Opportunity Fund ("RDOF") Support, and a Request for Waiver of S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-690.C.(b)

Sandhill Connections, LLC ("Connections," the Applicant, or the "Company"), filed an Application with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") for designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") for one eligible census block located in one eligible census block group in Chesterfield County, South Carolina ("Funded Area"). The Application was filed pursuant to Sections 214 and 254 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC") Rural Digital Opportunity Fund ("RDOF") Phase I auction. Connections is a wholly owned subsidiary of Sandhill Telephone Cooperative, Incorporated ("Sandhill"), an incumbent local exchange carrier. According to the Application, Sandhill participated in the FCC's RDOF Phase I auction and was deemed a winning bidder for one location in the Funded Area, and Sandhill has already filed its application with the FCC to assign its winning bid to Connections. The Application states that the Company is obligated by the FCC to obtain ETO designation status by June 7, 2021. Page 4 of the Application states that Connections will receive \$8,396 over a ten-year period to make its voice and broadband service available, delivering 1 Gigabit broadband to one location in the Funded Area upon completion of certain post-auction requirements. The Applicant is also requesting waiver of S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-690.C.(b).

A copy of the Company's Application can be found on the Commission's website at [www.psc.sc.gov](http://www.psc.sc.gov) under Docket No. 2021-17-C. Additionally, a copy of the Application is available from the Company's representatives Carrie L. DeVier, Counsel, and Robin E. Tuttle, Counsel, Herman & Whiteaker, LLC, 6720-B Rockledge Drive, Suite 150, Bethesda, Maryland 20817.

Any person who wishes to participate in this matter as a Party of Record should file a Petition to Intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure on or before February 24, 2021, by filing the Petition to Intervene with the Commission, by providing a copy to the Office of Regulatory Staff and by providing a copy to all Parties of Record. For the receipt of future Commission correspondence, please include an email address in the Petition to Intervene. Please refer to Docket No. 2021-17-C and mail a copy to all other Parties in this Docket.

Any person who seeks to intervene and who wishes to testify and present evidence at the hearing should notify, in writing, the Commission; the Office of Regulatory Staff at 1401 Main Street, Suite 900, Columbia, South Carolina 29201; and the company at the above address, on or before February 24, 2021. Please refer to Docket No. 2021-17-C.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE a virtual hearing, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-617, on the above matter has been scheduled to begin on Monday, April 12, 2021, at 2:00 P.M., before the Commission in the Commission's Hearing Room at 101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100, Saluda Building, Columbia, South Carolina 29210 for the purpose of receiving testimony and evidence from all interested parties.

The rates proposed in the Company's Petition/Application are subject to potential modification by the Commission during the course of this case.

**INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL PARTIES OF RECORD (Applicant, Petitioners, and Intervenor only):**  
All Parties of Record must prefile testimony with the Commission and with all Parties of Record. Prefiled Testimony Deadlines:  
Applicant's Direct Testimony Due: March 1, 2021; Other Parties of Record Direct Testimony Due: March 15, 2021; Applicant's Rebuttal Testimony Due: March 22, 2021; and Other Parties of Record Substantial Testimony Due: March 29, 2021. All Prefiled Testimony Deadlines are subject to the information as posted on [www.psc.sc.gov](http://www.psc.sc.gov) under Docket No. 2021-17-C.

For the most recent information regarding this Docket, including changes in scheduled dates included in this Notice, please refer to [www.psc.sc.gov](http://www.psc.sc.gov) and Docket No. 2021-17-C.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE any person who wishes to have his or her comments considered as part of the official record of this proceeding **MUST** present such comments in person to the Commission during the hearing.

Persons seeking information about the Commission's procedures should  
contact the Commission at (803) 896-6100 or visit its website at

[www.scc.sc.gov](http://www.scc.sc.gov).

1/12/2021  
4858269

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	
	)	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
COUNTY OF LEXINGTON	)	

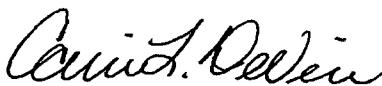
The undersigned, Carrie L. DeVier, hereby certifies that she is employed by the law firm of Herman & Whiteaker, LLC as attorneys for Sandhill Connexions, LLC and that she has caused the proof of publication of the Notice of Filing and Hearing and Prefile Testimony Deadlines of Sandhill Connexions, LLC in Docket No. 2021-17-C to be served by United States Postal Service, first class postage prepaid and affixed thereto, and addressed to the following on February 9, 2021:

C. Lessie Hammonds  
Counsel  
Office of Regulatory Staff  
1401 Main Street, Suite 900  
Columbia, SC 29201

Carri Grube Lybarker  
Counsel  
South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs  
Post Office Box 5757  
Columbia, SC 29250

Roger P. Hall  
Assistance Consumer Advocate  
South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs  
Post Office Box 5757  
Columbia, SC 29250

Jocelyn G. Boyd, Esquire  
Chief Clerk  
South Carolina Public Service Commission  
101 Executive Center Drive  
Suite 100  
Columbia, South Carolina 29210



Carrie L. DeVier